

SENATE BILL 689

F5

2lr2460
CF HB 745

By: **Senator Shank**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2012

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 16, 2012

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Maryland Advisory Council for Virtual Learning – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Advisory Council for Virtual Learning
4 within the Department of Education; requiring the Department to provide staff
5 for the Council; establishing the mission of the Council; identifying the
6 membership of the Council; establishing the membership term; requiring the
7 State Superintendent or the Governor to appoint a member in the event of a
8 vacancy; requiring the Council members to elect the Council chair; prohibiting a
9 member from receiving compensation except under certain circumstances;
10 establishing a quorum of the Council; requiring the Council to meet for a certain
11 number of times; establishing the responsibilities of the Council; requiring the
12 Council to submit a certain report by a certain time; defining a certain term;
13 and generally relating to the Maryland Advisory Council for Virtual Learning.

14 BY adding to

15 Article – Education

16 Section 7–10B–01 through 7–10B–06 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 10B.
17 Maryland Advisory Council for Virtual Learning”

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
21 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article – Education**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 **SUBTITLE 10B. MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR VIRTUAL LEARNING.**

2 **7-10B-01.**

3 **IN THIS SUBTITLE, "COUNCIL" MEANS THE MARYLAND ADVISORY**
4 **COUNCIL FOR VIRTUAL LEARNING.**

5 **7-10B-02.**

6 **(A) THERE IS A MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR VIRTUAL**
7 **LEARNING IN THE DEPARTMENT.**

8 **(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT FOR THE**
9 **COUNCIL.**

10 **7-10B-03.**

11 **THE MISSION OF THE COUNCIL IS TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE**
12 **EDUCATION OF STUDENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL STANDARDS OF**
13 **ONLINE LEARNING AND STATE LAW.**

14 **7-10B-04.**

15 **(A) THE COUNCIL CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING ~~15~~ MEMBERS:**

16 **(1) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OR THE STATE**
17 **SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;**

18 **(2) THE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND VIRTUAL LEARNING**
19 **OPPORTUNITIES OFFICE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT;**

20 **(3) ~~ONE MEMBER~~ TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**
21 **APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;**

22 **(4) ~~ONE MEMBER~~ TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES**
23 **OF MARYLAND APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;**

24 **(5) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:**

25 **(I) ONE LOCAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS;**

26 **(II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND**
27 **ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF EDUCATION;**

1 (III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND PARENT
2 TEACHER ASSOCIATION; ~~AND~~

3 (IV) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF VIRTUAL LEARNING
4 PROVIDERS;

5 (V) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY;

6 (VI) ONE PARENT OF A STUDENT PARTICIPATING IN DIGITAL
7 LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES;

8 (VII) ONE SCHOOL TEACHER ENGAGED IN DIGITAL
9 INSTRUCTION;

10 (VIII) ONE MEMBER OF THE BALTIMORE TEACHERS UNION;

11 (IX) ONE MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND STATE EDUCATION
12 ASSOCIATION; AND

13 (X) ONE CHARTER SCHOOL ADVOCATE; AND

14 (6) SIX MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE DEPARTMENT THAT ARE
15 EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL SCHOOLS THAT HAVE EXCELLED IN THE ABILITY TO
16 INCORPORATE TECHNOLOGY INTO THE CLASSROOM.

17 (B) IN MAKING THE APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION,
18 THE GOVERNOR AND THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENSURE THAT THE COUNCIL IS
19 REPRESENTATIVE OF:

20 (1) ALL GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF THE STATE; AND

21 (2) ALL LEVELS OF EDUCATION, INCLUDING EARLY CHILDHOOD
22 LEARNING, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND HIGH SCHOOL.

23 (C) (1) THE TERM OF A MEMBER APPOINTED UNDER THIS SECTION IS
24 3 YEARS.

25 (2) THE TERMS OF MEMBERS SHALL BE STAGGERED.

26 (3) AT THE END OF A TERM, A MEMBER SHALL CONTINUE TO
27 SERVE UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED.

1 (4) A MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN
2 SHALL SERVE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM OR UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS
3 APPOINTED.

4 (D) THE GOVERNOR OR THE DEPARTMENT SHALL APPOINT A
5 SUCCESSOR IN THE EVENT OF A VACANCY ON THE COUNCIL.

6 (E) FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, A CHAIR SHALL BE
7 ELECTED FOR A 3-YEAR TERM.

8 (F) A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION
9 BUT IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD
10 STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

11 **7-10B-05.**

12 (A) A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS THEN SERVING ON THE COUNCIL IS
13 A QUORUM.

14 (B) (1) THE COUNCIL SHALL MEET AT LEAST 4 TIMES DURING EACH
15 ACADEMIC YEAR.

16 (2) THE COUNCIL MAY HOLD ADDITIONAL MEETINGS IN ORDER
17 TO CARRY OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES.

18 **7-10B-06.**

19 (A) THE COUNCIL SHALL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING:

20 ~~(1) EXAMINE ALL STATE INITIATIVES TO PROVIDE DIGITAL~~
21 ~~CONTENT TO STUDENTS IN PRIMARY, SECONDARY, AND HIGHER EDUCATION,~~
22 ~~INCLUDING PILOT PROGRAMS FUNDED BY LOCAL, STATE, FEDERAL, OR~~
23 ~~PRIVATE FUNDS;~~

24 ~~(2) ENSURE THAT STUDENTS FROM ALL GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS~~
25 ~~IN THE STATE HAVE ACCESS TO DIGITAL LEARNING;~~

26 ~~(3) REQUEST INFORMATION FROM TEXTBOOK PUBLISHERS~~
27 ~~ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER DIGITAL~~
28 ~~CONTENT;~~

29 ~~(4) EXAMINE DATA REGARDING THE USE OF DIGITAL LEARNING~~
30 ~~TOOLS INCLUDING ONLINE LEARNING;~~

1 **~~(5) CREATE STANDARDS FOR:~~**

2 **~~(I) AWARDING CREDITS;~~**

3 **~~(II) STUDENT ENROLLMENT;~~**

4 **~~(III) VERIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE; AND~~**

5 **~~(IV) ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE;~~**

6 **~~(6) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FOLLOWING:~~**

7 **~~(I) HIGH QUALITY DIGITAL CONTENT TO PROVIDE FREE~~**
8 **~~ACCESS FOR STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12 ENROLLED IN~~**
9 **~~PUBLIC SCHOOLS, PRIVATE SCHOOLS, OR HOME SCHOOLS;~~**

10 **~~(II)~~ (1) HIGH QUALITY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
11 **FOR TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS REGARDING DIGITAL INSTRUCTION OR**
12 **BLENDING DIGITAL CONTENT WITH TRADITIONAL CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION;**

13 **~~(III)~~ (2) FUNDING STRATEGIES TO PROVIDE HIGH**
14 **QUALITY, INNOVATIVE OPTIONS IN COURSE PROVIDERS AND DELIVERY;**

15 **~~(IV)~~ (3) STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY;**

16 **~~(V)~~ (4) INFRASTRUCTURE NECESSARY TO SUPPORT**
17 **DIGITAL LEARNING;**

18 **~~(VI)~~ (5) MOBILE LEARNING AND MOBILE LEARNING**
19 **APPLICATIONS;**

20 **~~(VII)~~ (6) ALIGNING RESOURCES AND DIGITAL LEARNING**
21 **INITIATIVES OF ALL STATE AGENCIES;**

22 **~~(VIII)~~ (7) COORDINATION OF DIGITAL LEARNING**
23 **PROGRAMS TO PREVENT REDUNDANCY AND INEFFICIENCY;**

24 **~~(IX)~~ (8) PLANNING FOR CHANGES IN TECHNOLOGY AND**
25 **DIGITAL LEARNING;**

26 **~~(X)~~ (9) EXPANDED CURRICULUM FOR MATHEMATICS,**
27 **SCIENCE, FOREIGN LANGUAGE, AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES;**

1 ~~(XI)~~ **(10)** INCREASING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR
2 AT-RISK, HOME-BOUND, SPECIAL NEEDS, AND ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION
3 STUDENTS; AND

4 ~~(XII)~~ **(11)** IMPLEMENTATION PLANS FOR PROVIDING
5 DIGITAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES TO ALL STUDENTS IN THE STATE; .

6 ~~(7)~~ ~~REVIEW AND APPROVE ONLINE COURSES; AND~~

7 ~~(8)~~ **(B)** ~~PERFORM~~ THE COUNCIL SHALL PERFORM ANY OTHER
8 TASKS TO CARRY OUT THE MISSION OF THE COUNCIL.

9 ~~(D)~~ **(C)** ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE COUNCIL SHALL
10 REPORT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT AND, IN
11 ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE
12 ~~GENERAL ASSEMBLY~~ HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS AND THE
13 SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 2012.

Approved:

_____ Governor.

_____ President of the Senate.

_____ Speaker of the House of Delegates.